This is a typical member of the *Cortinicara gibbosa* (Herbst) group, species of which are best separated by their characteristic male aedeagi (see Johnson,1975, 1977a,1977b).

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Brachypterolus linariae **(Stephens) (Col.: Nitidulidae) in Surrey**

In the past, this species was confused with *B. pulicarius* (L.), long recognised as a British insect. In a paper establishing the identity of *B.linariae* (Stephens) and recording its presence also in Britain, my friend Mr C. Johnson (1967 *Entomologist* **100**: 142) listed a few locatities for the species but these did not include Surrey. I should like, accordingly, to record that I collected eight specimens of *Brachypterolus* from flowers of *Linaria vulgaris* Mill. from a site near Cheam, Surrey on 15.viii.89. As it turned out, all were males; four proved to be *B. linariae* and 4 were *B. pulicarius.*

The presence of equal numbers of *linariae* and *pulicarius* in this, albeit small, sample, is in marked contrast to what I have found in other districts. There, *pulicarius* has always greatly outnumbered *linariae.* It could be interesting to see, over the next few years, whether the Cheam site maintains this equality in the two species. — J.A. Owen, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.